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but found that the government insisted on buying the plants at their replacement value in 1911, and this change of policy in 1905 was far more responsible for the sale of the municipal plants than is brought out by Professor Meyer.

Having said this in criticism of the book, it should be added that certain drawbacks upon telephone development in Great Britain through widely different policies of the government at different times and the evident weaknesses of some of those policies are clearly brought out. In many parts of the volume the author sharply criticizes Glasgow and the other cities undertaking the telephone business because they made prominent an unlimited service instead of a measured service, yet in other parts of the volume Professor Meyer has referred to the American telephone service as in every way ahead of the British. It is interesting to note that the traffic department of one of the large branches of the Bell Telephone Company, namely, the Cleveland Telephone Company, informs the writer that 90 per cent of their 32,000 subscribers in the Cleveland district are using unlimited service. This is substantially true of the rival independent company. All over the United States the Bell companies, after some experiments with the measure service, are now abandoning it. This is certainly an interesting commentary on Professor Meyer's treatment of the subject.

This book, like the others which Professor Meyer has written, will prove of great help to those who wish to marshall on one side all that can be said against public management, and any fair-minded student of the question will of course desire to understand that side and will thank our author for presenting it so clearly. At the same time room is left for a more rounded and judicial treatment of the subject.

EDWARD W. BEMIS.

Cleveland, O.

More, Louise Bolard. *Wage-Earners' Budgets.* Pp. x, 280. Price, $2.50. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1907.

A more accurate, intense and sympathetic statistical study of the standard and cost of living of wage-earners has never been made, either in this country or in Europe. The incomes and the cost of living of two hundred families of wage-earners are here given, and in the most critical and sympathetic fashion. While this work is by no means so extensive as that of Le Play, Engel, Booth, Rowntree, or of the United States Department of Labor, it is the result of more personal and intimate knowledge of the subjects investigated, and it embodies more of the real life and ideals of the wage-earners than that of any other investigator in the same or similar fields. Mrs. More gives us, in this volume, the product of her research for a period of practically two years in that section of lower west New York City known as the Greenwich House neighborhood. Her research was of the co-operative nature, for she made investigations into the standards of living and the cost of living of those families who would intelligently aid her. Mrs. More's book is all the more valuable, since it is the result of an intimate,

intense intelligent, and non-partisan investigation. The chief value of the book is the collection and tabulation of facts, though its conclusions and comparisons are in almost every instance accurate and reliable. Nowhere do we find hasty and ill-judged generalizations.

She gives us an exhaustive analysis of each of the two hundred families according to occupation, nativity, size, income from various sources, and expenditures for various outlays. In all these aspects she has a double aim: to collect and publish the facts; to discover the attitude of the wife and mother, the real manager and dispenser of the family income, "toward what is a necessity and what is a luxury, what is desirable and what is to be endured," since this clearly reflects the real standard of living of the family. In doing this Mrs. More has been at work along the border-line of the moral and the economic and social. In the future we shall, I am convinced, work much more earnestly along this border line.

Some of the conclusions of this intimate and intense investigation are: (a) That there is a constant interdependence between the size of the family and its income, and also the resulting surplus or deficit; (b) that as income increases the percentage expended for food, rent, light and fuel tends to decrease, but for clothing and sundries to increase; (c) that the chief causes of dependency are: (1) Large family with small income; (2) the illness or death of the principal wage-earner of the family; (3) the irregularity of work whether due to drink, incapacity, or industrial conditions.

As to the literary style of the book, we are at times impressed by the lack of vigor and enthusiasm, to say nothing of a lack of polish.

CHARLES LEE RAPER.

University of North Carolina.

Murray, A. M. *Imperial Outposts.* Pp. xxiv, 210. Price, $3.50. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1907.

This is a carefully written record of observations made during a trip round the world on which the writer visited the ports chiefly involved in the problem of imperial defense. It is more than a book of travel, in that the writer shows on every page the technical training of the army man and a thorough knowledge of present-day international relations. Nor does the national bias appear, though the subject is one where we would naturally expect it to be found. Criticism is meted out where needed, especially to the management of the colonies of Aden and Singapore, and to the unsatisfactory status of the foreign community in Shanghai. The theme of the book is to demonstrate the necessity of protecting British trade routes by the maintenance of a navy that shall truly "rule the seas." In connection with this idea the Japanese Alliance in its relation to British fighting power is discussed at length. The standard of a navy greater than "any possible two-power hostile combination" is accepted as essential. The present distribution of the English navy and the improvement in coaling and refitting stations present a good idea of the care with which England is guarding even the farthest branches of her commerce.